

# WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,  
and workers in the District of Columbia*

*Friday, November 14, 2003*

## DISTRICT EXPANDS ITS ONLINE SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY

The District has doubled the number of registered sex offenders posted on the MPDC's website by expanding the online Sex Offender Registry to include both Class A and Class B offenders. Enacted in the year 2000, DC's Sex Offender Registration Law requires any person convicted, or found not guilty by reason of insanity, of certain sex-related offenses to register with the District, provided the individual lives, works, or attends school in the city. All registered sex offenders are classified as either Class A, Class B or Class C offenders, with Class A representing the most serious offenses and Class C the least serious. While the law authorizes the MPDC to maintain an online registry of adult Class A and B offenders, the courts had previously limited the online registry to Class A offenders only. However, more recent court decisions have cleared the way for Class B offenders to be included in the online registry. With addition of Class B offenders, the online registry now has approximately 520 entries. The registry includes photographs and descriptions of registered sex offenders who have been released into the community, along with block-level address information and data about the offender's criminal conviction.

① Read the full news release on the expansion at:  
<http://www.mpd.org/blue/news.asp?sid=2420>

① To access the online Sex Offender Registry, along with FAQs and safety tips, go to:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/sor/sor.shtml>

① Information about adult Class A, B and C offenders can be viewed in paper format at 16 different MPDC facilities, including the seven district stations and the headquarters building. Locations are listed at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/sor/registrylocations.shtml>

## ANALYSIS SHOWS POSITIVE CRIME TRENDS FOLLOWING "CRIME INITIATIVE" IN DC

Just over two months ago, Chief Ramsey announced that he was giving commanders greater flexibility to schedule police officers when and where they were needed most to combat neighborhood crime problems. By suspending Article 24 of the collective bargaining agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police, the Chief gave commanders the ability to adjust officers' schedules or assignments without providing the usual 14-day notice required under the contract. A recent analysis shows some encouraging signs following the Chief's move. Preliminary data indicate that from August 28 through October 26, overall serious crime in DC declined 15 percent when compared with the previous 60 days (June 19-August 27), and was down 9 percent when compared with the August 28-October 26 time period of 2002. Most districts have made progress in addressing some of the priority crime problems they identified at the beginning of the initiative. The Seventh District, for example, posted a 75 percent reduction in homicides over the previous 60 days. Chief Ramsey said that while he is encouraged by the overall trends, there is still a lot of work to do in addressing all of the priority crime problems. He praised MPDC officers and their partners in the community for working so hard and achieving tangible results over the past two months. The Chief said he would re-evaluate the Crime Initiative on or before December 1.

## MPDC, BUREAU OF ENGRAVING AND PRINTING POLICE ENTER INTO COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

Under a cooperative agreement recently signed with the MPDC, officers with the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Police Operations Division will be able to carry out law enforcement activities, including the power of arrest, in an area surrounding the Bureau's facility in Southwest DC. The agreement between the MPDC and the BEP is the seventh to be executed under the 1997 Police Coordination Act, a federal law spearheaded by DC Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton to provide additional resources for crime control and prevention in DC. The agreement allows on-duty BEP officers to assist the MPDC in carrying out crime prevention and law enforcement activities in an area to include the streets, sidewalks and open areas immediately adjacent to the Bureau along Wallenberg Place (15th Street) and 14th Street, SW between Independence and Maine Avenues, SW; C and D Streets, SW between 12th and 14th Streets, SW; 13th Street, SW between C and D Streets, SW; and surrounding parking facilities used by Bureau employees. In the past, BEP officers had jurisdiction only inside their facilities; officers who were made aware of crimes in the surrounding areas could not take direct action, but had to call the MPDC. Under the agreement, BEP police officers must complete approximately 96 hours of training on DC Code at the MPDC Academy, and the MPDC will provide support services such as prisoner transportation, fingerprinting, medical treatment and the like.

## SERIAL ARSONIST STRIKES AGAIN IN NORTHEAST DC

A suspicious fire this past week in Northeast DC is believed to be the latest in a series of blazes attributed to a serial arsonist in the District and Prince George's County. The latest fire was set at about 2:45 am, on Tuesday, November 11, outside a home in the 1700 block of 24th Street, NE. No one was injured in the blaze. The manner, location and timing of the fire have led investigators to conclusively link the blaze with nine other arsons and one attempted arson dating back to early March. Investigators also consider an additional 20 fires as being similar in nature. In addition to a sketch previously issued in the case, the task force this week released a "behavioral profile" of the person who may be responsible. The profile suggests that the suspect could be a heavy drinker, have a sharp temper, drive recklessly, be regularly dishonest with others and have a criminal record.

## NEWS & NOTES

**Two MPDC Members To Receive Cafritz Awards:** Two of the five winners of this year's prestigious Cafritz Awards for distinguished DC government employees are members of the MPDC. Violent Crimes Detective Mitch Credle and Officer Myra Wheeler Jordan, of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Liaison Unit, will receive their honors during a ceremony on November 18 (detailed profiles to follow in next week's "What's New"). More information at <http://www.mpdcc.org/blue/news.asp?sid=2418>.

**Citizen Summit III this Saturday.** The MPDC will be actively participating in Mayor Williams's Citizen Summit III, this Saturday, November 15, from 8 am to 4 pm, at the new Washington Convention Center. Details, including a participants' guide, are at: <http://www.citizensummit.dc.gov/main.shtm>.

**Drug Free Zones.** Drug free zones are in effect this weekend in the First and Fourth police districts, with additional zones planned for next week. Details on the Anti-Loitering/Drug Free Zone law are at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/drugfreezone.shtm>.

- ① Read the news release at:  
<http://www.mpdcc.org/blue/news.asp?sid=2415>
- ① A complete copy of the MPDC-BEP agreement is available (in PDF) at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/programs/pdf/MOU-BEP.pdf>
- ① The MPDC has entered into similar agreements with the following agencies: Amtrak Police, Defense Protective Service, FBI Police, Federal Protective Service, US Mint Police and National Zoological Park Police. Details at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/programs/coopagree.shtm>
- ① For the latest news on the serial arson case, visit the Prince George's County website at:  
<http://www.goprincegeorgescounty.com/Government/PublicSafety/Fire/arson.asp?h=20&s=60&n=40&n1=30>
- ① The reward in the serial arson case is now \$25,000. Individuals can provide tips in a number of ways (listed on the Prince George's County website), including the 301-77-ARSON hotline or via email at:  
[77arson@co.pg.md.us](mailto:77arson@co.pg.md.us)

## DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 11/14/03)

- 2003: 213
- 2002: 222
- % Change: -4.1%

Adult Arrests (week end. 11/8/03)

- Total: 719
- Drugs: 143
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 13
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 17

Firearm Recoveries (as of 11/11/03)

- Total: 1,676
- November: 48

Traffic Fatalities (as of 11/14/03)

- 2003: 58
- 2002: 48
- % Change: +20.8%

**Information, ideas, or comments about this service?** Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at [kevin.morison@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.morison@dc.gov). Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

**mpdc.dc.gov**